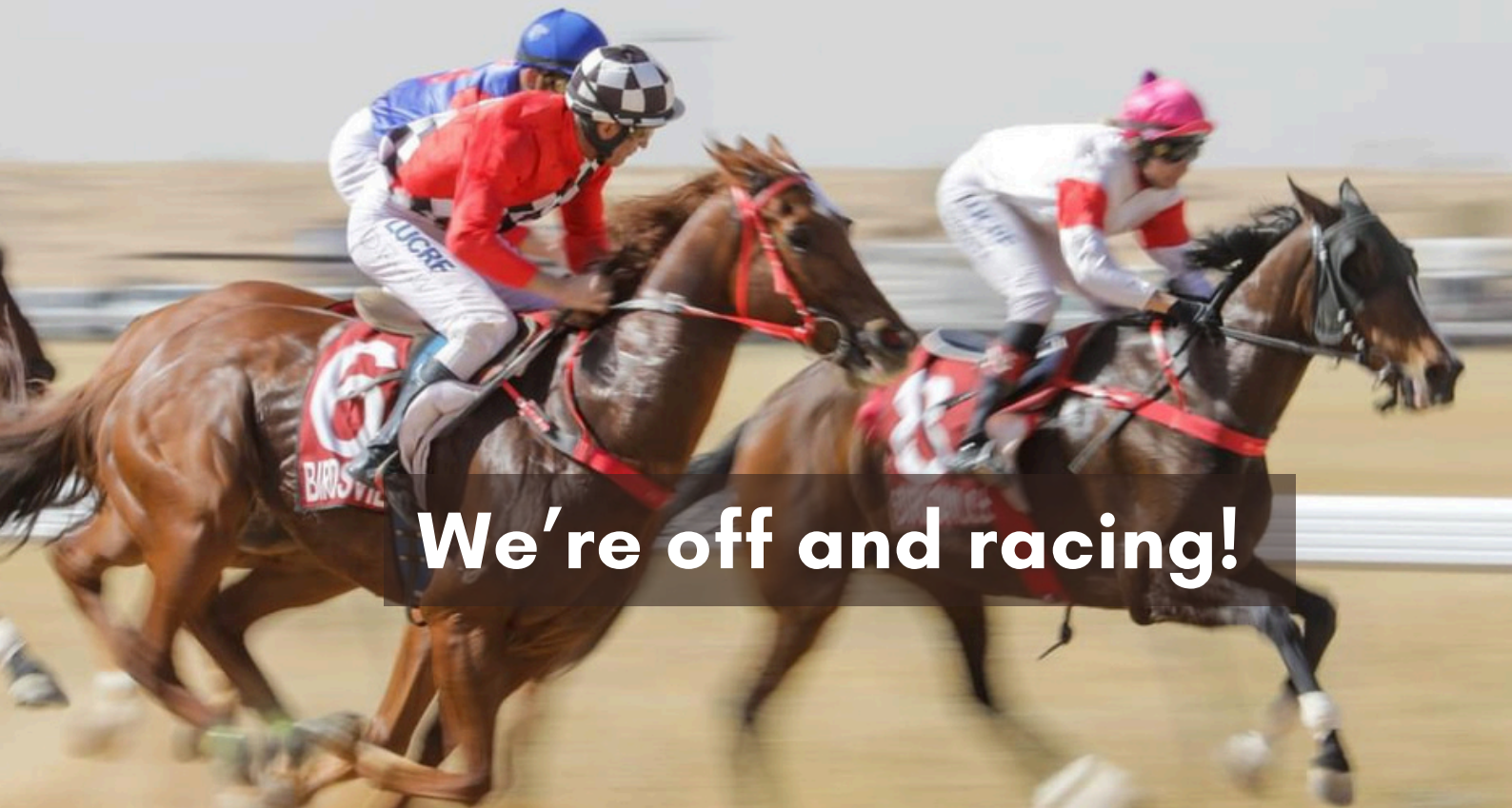


# Desert YARNS

[www.diamantina.qld.gov.au](http://www.diamantina.qld.gov.au)



**We're off and racing!**

**Event edition: Birdsville  
Races, Big Red Bash,  
Bedourie Camel Races and  
more!**

**BEDOURIE'S  
DREAMTIME SCULPTURE:**

*Dust Storm*

WANGKANGURRU COUNTRY

Set against the backdrop of gibbers, sand hills, and the vast outback, the "Dust Storm" sculpture vividly represents a dust storm. Dust storms, known for their swirling winds, symbolise how spirits travel in Dreamtime stories.

The town of Bedourie derives its name from First Nation Peoples' word for dust storm - Bidouri.



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*Welcome to  
our special  
event edition of  
Desert Yarns*



# Message from the Mayor

*Big Red Bash July 2 - 4*



**Mayor Francis Murray**

I took advantage of the opportunity at the LGAQ Mayor's Forum at Parliament House, Brisbane to meet with Bart Mellish, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and emphasise how important it is to seal the roads into Birdsville, but mainly to finish the Birdsville Bedourie road at the Cuttaburra Crossing. I followed this theme up at the Civic Leaders Summit at a forum on liveability. While others were discussing cost of living, I thought it important to point out that we ask only for comparable liveability, my argument being that until we have a sealed road to Birdsville, we are significantly disadvantaged.

I was invited to attend the Wangkangurru-Yarluyandi directors' meeting on country in Birdsville. The W-Y are keen to build upon their working relationship with the Diamantina Shire Council, and I am equally keen to see the council working closely with our Traditional Owners. Council was well represented at a meeting with the Pitta Pitta Aboriginal Corporation in Boulia where a respectful relationship was also developed.

All the councillors and CEO spent the day inspecting council and community infrastructure in Birdsville which is clearly in need of either upgrading, replacement or maintenance schedules, however, it was great to see our streetscape in excellent condition, which is a credit to Alarna Achterberg's Parks and Gardens team.

It was a great surprise to see Barry and Narelle Gaffney back in town to prepare Barry's Volvo Prime Mover to go to the Winton Truck Museum. Barry and Narelle spent their entire lives in our region and are known by many.



*Barry, Narelle and Mayor Francis Murray in the Birdsville Hotel beside a photograph of Barry's grandfather, publican Len Gaffney, and Francis' grandfather (far right), yard builder Arthur Murray, in the Birdsville Hotel 1958. Left is Duncan Considine, centre is George Naylor.*

Sam Watkins' aerial photography exhibition, *Diamantina Spirit*, is on display at the Wirrarri Gallery, Birdsville. The opening event was well attended by community and visitors and I encourage everyone to drop in and take a look at council's first solo art exhibition by a local community member. I would like to congratulate Sam on the quality of her work and presentation.

It was a pity that all the hard work by the Birdsville Social Club to prepare for their annual Bronco Branding event was forced to cancel by the rain that closed the Birdsville Track and turned the arena into a mud pit, but I'm confident that the rescheduled event will be a great show as usual and I'm sure there will be no complaints from the pastoral industry for another shower. Hopefully the roads will stay dry now so our tourist and events season can get into full swing.

*Mayor*  
**Francis Murray**

# CEO update

## Scott Mason

Acting Chief  
Executive Officer



As the year rolls on, Diamantina Shire Council has been busy undertaking elected member inductions and ensuring council, councillors and the communities are set up for success over the next four years. Sessions and workshops have been undertaken with the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Queensland Treasury Corporation.

Council is also focused on the implementation of several reforms, along with its Financial Turnaround Strategy, which is concentrated on financial governance, the 2023/24 budget review, plant accounting, development of the 24/25 budget and preparation for finalisation of the accounting statements for the current financial year.

Council has also agreed to establish a Plant and Machinery Committee and an Audit Committee which will provide a governance framework to ensure sufficient time is dedicated to these important matters.

Congratulations to our Mayor who is now the new Chair of the Outback Regional Road and Transport Group!



*Birdsville Races September 6 - 7*

Event season is upon us and I thank our Council teams for the preparatory work they have undertaken to support our club and committee volunteers. We're excited about the tourism season and expect large attendances generally and to these community events.

Council has experienced some significant staff turnover of late, which is cause to say thank-you to all who have contributed to the Diamantina way of life and to improving community liveability. We look forward to our new wave of employees commencing and to the strong contributions they will make to build our momentum. Jason Beaton will join us as Chief Operating Officer from June 10 and Acting Director of Corporate Services Lorelle Hatch will join us from June 13. All vacancies will be advertised internally and externally as we engage replacement employees.

Regarding the employment of the Diamantina Shire Council CEO position, we can report that from 54 applications, 5 were shortlisted, 4 interview and we are now down to the final two, who will travel out for the final stages of the interview process with the full council.



**Have your say on  
water planning**  
Georgina and Diamantina  
water plan review

 **Queensland  
Government** Department of Regional Development,  
Manufacturing and Water

Can I please encourage residents and landholders to attend the public information sessions for the review of the Georgina Diamantina Water Plan. This is an important opportunity to seek information and provide input. A session will be held at Bedourie on 25 June and at Birdsville on 26 June.

At the time of writing this article, Diamantina Shire Council has attended the Civic Leaders Summit which was held at the Gold Coast from 21-22 May and it is presently participating in Remote Area Planning and Development Board Meetings at Blackall from 27-29 May, 2024. These are important opportunities for regional advocacy and for championing outback issues.

In closing, we will hold our next Council Meeting at Bedourie on 17 June.

*Best regards*

**Scott Mason**

Acting Chief Executive Officer

# Community and Tourism

## Event season kicks off!

Nature has blessed us with stunning displays of wildflowers flowers to launch our tourism season. The Diamantina has featured in the media, with wildflower and Aurora photos being shared by Outback Queensland Tourism.



Experience Outback Queensland featured **Annandale Trading Co's** stunning photo of wildflowers and sunshine on Facebook

We have been working with Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and BBC Studios, to promote the Diamantina in an international campaign featuring Outback Queensland. It was great to see the local community coming together for the filming of the biggest game of Keepy Uppy! The game, made famous by the hit children's show 'Bluey', is part of a new tourism campaign which TEQ predicts will entice 1.3 million visitors to Queensland, bringing in an estimated \$1.7 billion by June 2025. **Watch the video here.**



Congratulations to **Birdsville Tourist Park** and **Birdsville Bakery** who were among the 92 experiences in Outback Queensland that achieved Best of Queensland status! This stamp of approval recognises the outstanding efforts of tourism businesses that bring the Queensland story to life and consistently deliver top-notch visitor experiences. Well done team!



Outbike Australia's Gulf to Gulf Challenge enjoyed a stop at the Birdsville Hotel

We welcomed cyclists from Outbike Australia, who are completing the Gulf to Gulf Challenge. The convoy of 23 riders and 4 vehicles spent time in the Diamantina Shire, with stopovers in Birdsville and Bedourie.

Event season will swing into full gear with the Outback Queensland Masters bonus Big Red Hole-in-one Challenge on Friday 14 June. The first leg of the series commences at the Birdsville Dunes Golf Club on 15 and 16 June, where Junior Golf Clinics will be on offer for local children.

The Birdsville Campdraft, Rodeo and Bronco Branding, which was rescheduled due to weather conditions, has combined with the Birdsville Horse and Motorbike Gymkhana for a massive weekend in Birdsville from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 June. In the Big Red Bash lead-up, we have the Bedourie Bronco Branding & Bike Gymkhana on 29 and 30 June.

Post Bash, Bedourie offers an ideal recovery weekend destination with the Bedourie Bull & Bronc Pit on Friday 5 July and Bedourie Camel and Pig Races on Saturday 6 July. Add an Artesian Spa day on Sunday to top it all off!



Outback Queensland Masters 14 - 16 June

Stay tuned for more updates as our tourism season gets into full swing.

Warm regards

**Matt Allard**

Director of Community and Economic Development

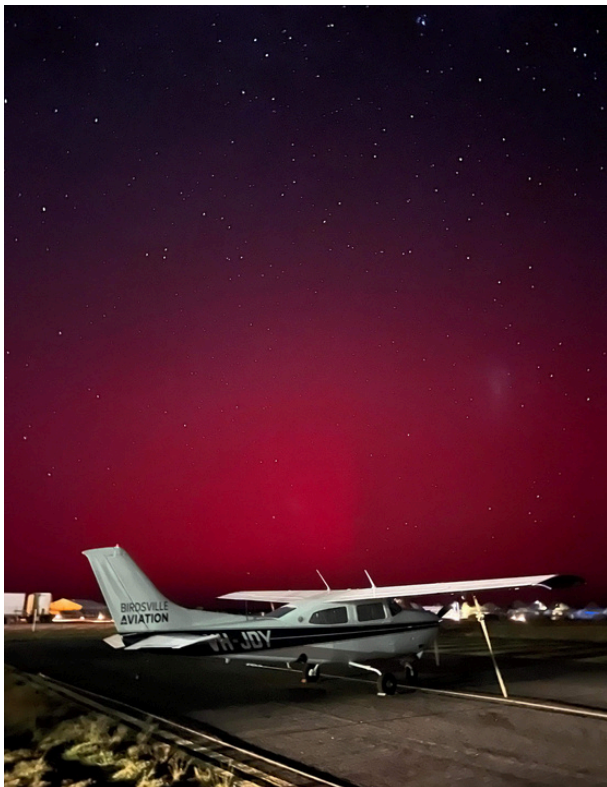




# Aurora Australis

An amazing rare natural event occurred in the skies over Diamantina on May 11.

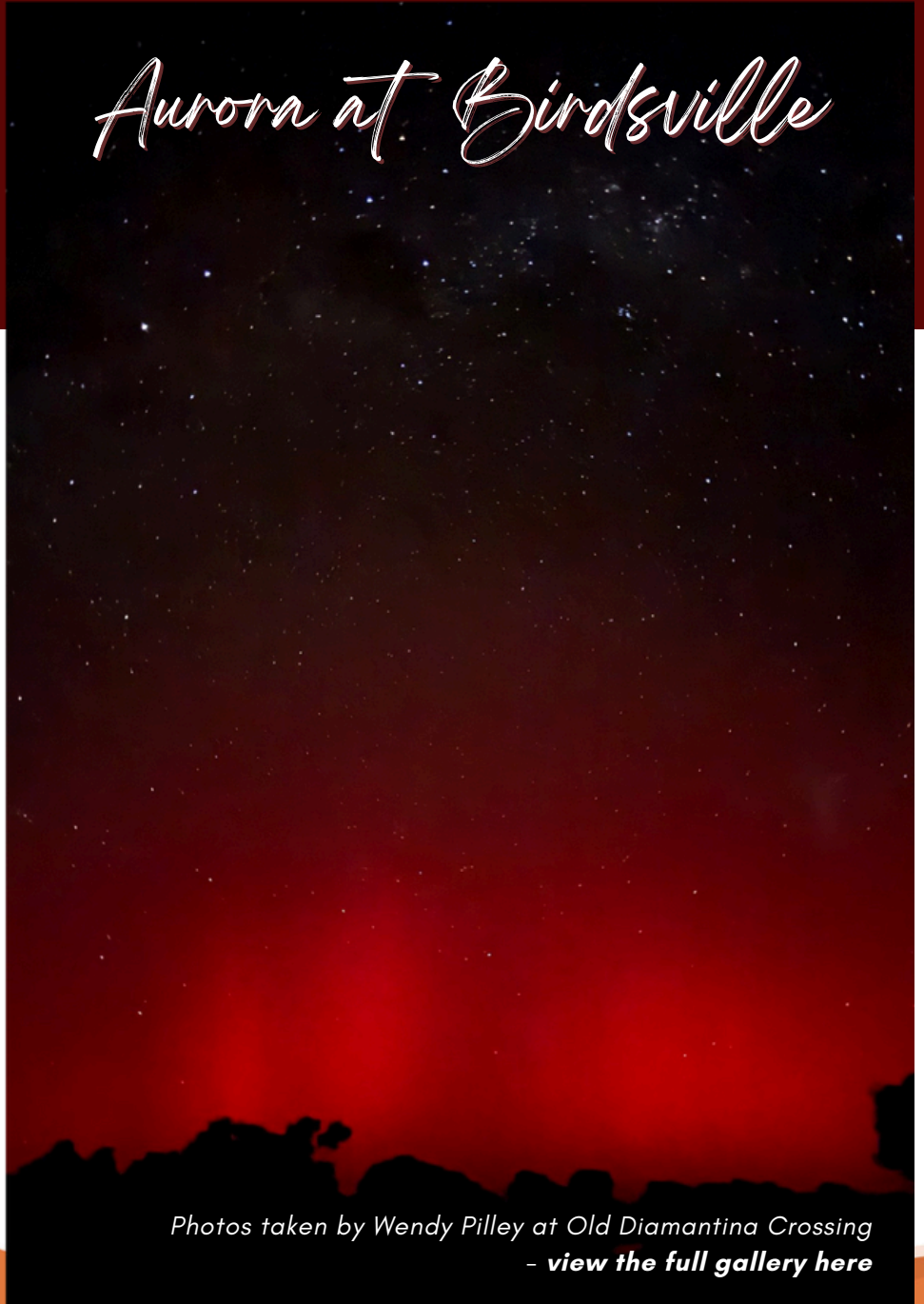
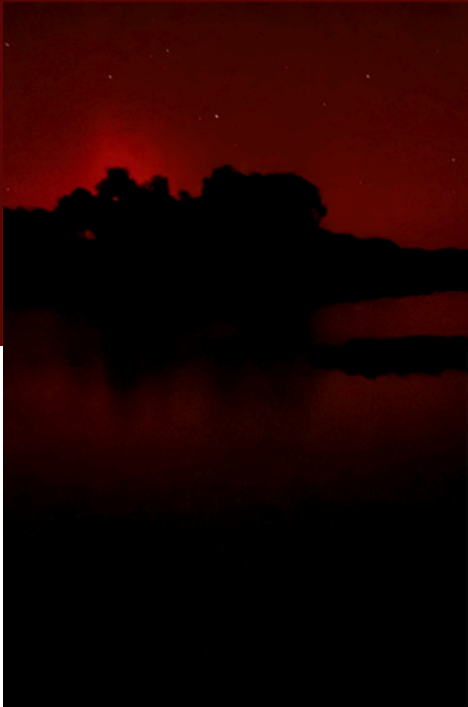
The Geomagnetic storm event, Aurora Australis, was captured by photography enthusiasts across our shire. Wendy Pilley's photo of the Aurora Australis (right) was viewed over 260K times on the Birdsville Tourist Park Facebook page and shared on the Diamantina and Queensland Tourism Facebook pages.



The Aurora Australis ft. **Birdsville Bakery** was captured by Sam Watkins, Travelling Jewel Photography (right).

Experience Outback Queensland, Australia featured two images from Birdsville, Birdsville Tourist Park's stunning picture (above), and the awesome photo of Birdsville Aviation taken by Sam Watkins (left), in their collection of Aurora photos on Facebook and Instagram on May 14.





*Aurora at Birdsville*

*Photos taken by Wendy Pilley at Old Diamantina Crossing  
- [view the full gallery here](#)*



Council has completed an extended period of works on the Birdsville public pool. Visitors and residents can now

enjoy swimming and cooling off at the Birdsville pool.

We apologise for the pool closure over the summer period. The pool pump has been replaced, and several additional maintenance issues have been addressed. The pool is now open for use. Pool passes are available from the Warrarri Visitor Information Centre.

**Pool opening hours\***

Monday-Friday

5am - 7:30am and

3:30pm - 6pm

Weekends 6am - 6pm

\*Pool opening hours subject to change. Please follow the **Diamantina Shire Council Facebook page** and check the Council website for the latest information about Council facilities.

# Traveller Tales

**'Countdown is on until we get our festival mode back on, dust off the boots and hit the road for our outback odyssey- yeee haaa!**

**This will be our 4th year at the Big Red Bash in Birdsville and we can't wait to camp under the stars, kick up some red dust, dance and listen to live tunes in the desert!**

**Big Red Bash 2024 we're coming for ya!**

**Travel Tales - Family Travel Adventures on Facebook**



## 2024 Event Calendar

14 - 16 June | Birdsville  
**Outback Queensland  
Masters**



21 - 23 June | Birdsville  
**Motorbike Gymkhana,  
Campdraft, Rodeo  
+ Bronco Branding**



29 - 30 June | Bedourie  
**Bronco Branding + Bike  
Gymkhana**



2 - 4 July | Birdsville  
**Big Red Bash**  
*The World's Most Remote  
Music Festival*

**Friday 5 July | Bedourie  
Bull + Bronc Pit**

**Saturday 6 July | Bedourie  
Camel + Pig Races**



**BASH RECOVERY**



**Saturday 31 Aug  
Betoota Races**

**6 - 7 Sept  
Birdsville Races**

**SIMPSON DESERT RACING CARNIVAL**

**Saturday 14 Sept  
Bedourie Races**



**27 - 29 Sept | Bedourie  
Campdraft Rodeo  
+ Gymkhana**



**More info at [thediamantina.com.au](http://thediamantina.com.au)**



## Big Red Hole-in-one Challenge

Friday 14 June 2024

Come join us for an extra chance to strike it rich in Outback Queensland. Tell your mates!

OPEN to non-pass holders, and all OQM players and spectators. \$20 for 3 balls. Prizes for Hole-In-One and Nearest the Pin.

SIGN UP at [outbackqldmasters.com](http://outbackqldmasters.com)

## Outback Queensland Masters Round 1 at Birdsville Dunes Golf Club Saturday 15 & 16 June 2024

Australia's richest amateur golfing series, Outback Queensland Masters spans over 1,650 kilometres across six locations in Outback Queensland from Birdsville to Quilpie, with rounds in Boulia, Winton, Barcaldine and Charleville. There are 5 \$10K HOLE-IN-ONE prizes on offer, leading up to the Million-Dollar Hole-in-One challenge in Quilpie.

Register at [outbackqldmasters.com](http://outbackqldmasters.com)



# FREE JUNIOR *Golf Clinics*



**SAT 15 & SUN 16 JUNE 2024**

Outback Queensland Masters clinics are for first-timers and up-and-coming future golf champions and are aimed at improving the skills of young people five years and over.

MORE INFO + SIGN UP  
[www.outbackqldmasters.com/juniors](http://www.outbackqldmasters.com/juniors)

For Outback Queensland locals only.  
Places are limited.



**BIRDSVILLE DUNES GOLF CLUB**



# Birdsville

**Motorbike Gymkhana,  
Campdraft, Rodeo and  
Bronco Branding**



## **Updated three day program!**

**NEW DATES  
21 - 23 JUNE 2024**

Experience all the action of the Bronco Branding, Campdraft Competition and Horse Gymkhana with live music and thrilling rodeos on both Friday and Saturday nights! Sunday kicks off with the Motorbike Endurance Race, and continuation of the Horse Gymkhana followed by the Motorbike Gymkhana at midday.

Enjoy delicious food and drinks and take advantage of free camping to make the most of your weekend.

## Harmony at the Birdsville Gymkhana.

Young competitors like Harmony show us how to compete, at the Birdsville Gymkhana in June each year!

OBE Organic  
on Facebook



### Friday 21 June

8am Bronco Branding  
2.30pm Campdraft  
6pm Rodeo

### Saturday 22 June

8am Campdraft  
2pm Horse Gymkhana  
5pm Rodeo

### Sunday 23 June

7am Motorbike Endurance Race  
8am Horse Gymkhana cont.  
12pm Motorbike Gymkhana



FULL PROGRAM ON  
BIRDSVILLE SOCIAL CLUB  
FACEBOOK PAGE

# Big Red Bash

2 - 4 July



Every July, Birdsville's iconic Big Red Bash kicks off under the open skies of Australia's Simpson Desert. Thousands of people from around Australia, and the world, head into the desert for the most remote music festival on the planet.

Since the Big Red Bash kicked off in 2013 with a solo performance by John Williamson on top of Big Red, we've had some fantastic Australian artists perform over the years. This year's lineup doesn't dissappoint with TINA ARENA, JON STEVENS, IAN MOSS, COLIN HAY, TIM FINN, DIESEL, BABY ANIMALS, VANESSA AMOROSI, MARK SEYMOUR, RICHARD CLAPTON, CASEY BARNES, SHANE HOWARD, PIERCE BROTHERS, BJORN AGAIN, MI-SEX, CHOCOLATE STARFISH - Bat Out Of Hell, The Rolling Stones Revue starring PHIL JAMIESON, TEX PERKINS & TIM ROGERS, FURNACE AND THE FUNDAMENTALS, ASH GRUNWALD, FANNY LUMSDEN, SARAH MCLEOD, HAYLEY MARY, STEVE BALBI, AMY RYAN, BIG RED BASH BAND & 'THE BEST' ALLSTAR TINA TURNER TRIBUTE.

**More info** [bigredbash.com.au](http://bigredbash.com.au)



## Win a VIP BACKSTAGE PASS with the RFDS Raffle!

All proceeds support the Royal Flying Doctor Service - Queensland Section. Ticket options:

1 for \$20, 3 for \$50, 6 for \$100

All entrants must have a valid Big Red Bash 2024 ticket.

Winner announced on June 28. Don't miss out!

Tickets & more info <https://auraffles.com.au/rfdsqld>



## Big Blue Day - Tuesday 2 July

Support Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and be part of an exciting attempt to BREAK A NEW WORLD RECORD for the largest human image of a country - Australia at 10am on Tuesday, 2nd July at the Concert Area. Whether you're joining the record attempt or just supporting, make sure to dress in blue from head to toe on Tuesday!

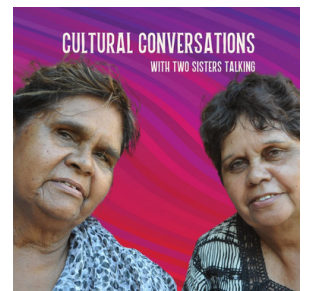
Learn more at <https://bit.ly/bigblueday>.

Add text here



## Cultural Conversations with Two Sister Talking

Come sit with the elders of this country and hear the language, stories and way of life of proud Wankangurra/Yarluyandi Aboriginal women. In each session, you will be guided through their books to learn to speak language and understand the care of Country you are on. Jean and Joyce are sisters born in the sand hills of channel country, they are the designers and creators of @red\_ridge the label, writers of story books, and elders, compelled to share knowledge. For more info, check out the Bash App.



Looking for a fun family activity? Experience camel rides at the world's most remote music festival. No reservations needed – simply come by from Monday to Thursday between 10am and 6pm for camel rides.



**— The Big Red Dune will close to vehicle traffic from 6am Sat 29 June - 7am Sat 6 July for the Big Red Bash. During the closure, all vehicle access to and from the desert (to the west) will be via Little Red.**

# Bedourie

## BIG BASH RECOVERY WEEKEND



Bedourie Race Track

### Bedourie Camel and Pig Races

Saturday, 6 July

Join us for Camel and Pig Racing, live music, a Camp Oven Damper Baking Comp, and novelty events. Enjoy a coldie from the bar, tasty food, and free camping in designated areas. Tickets available at [www.oztix.com.au](http://www.oztix.com.au)



### Bedourie Bull & Bronc Pit

Friday, 6 July

Experience the thrill of an outback rodeo, where locals display their incredible skills and compete for jackpot prizes. Enjoy live music and a lively bar.

[More info](#)

### Bedourie Artesian Spa & Sightseeing

Ease your muscles in the 22-person, 38 to 40-degree therapeutic spa. Open daily from 7 am to 7 pm. Passes are available from the Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre.

Enjoy the town sights including the restored historic Mud Hut and the Dust Storm Sculpture on Herbert Street.



## The Variety Bourke to Burketown Bash 2024 is happening August 11 - 22!

2024 is the 40th Anniversary of the original Bourke to Burketown Bash so Bashers are retracing the route as part of the celebration.

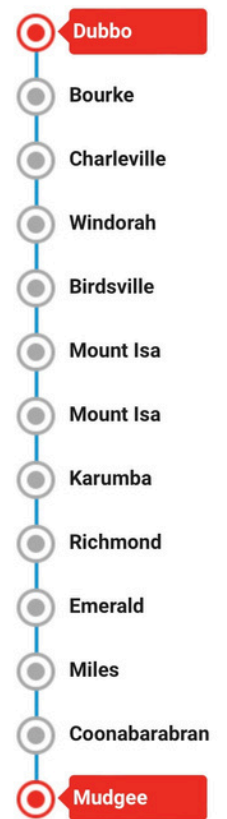
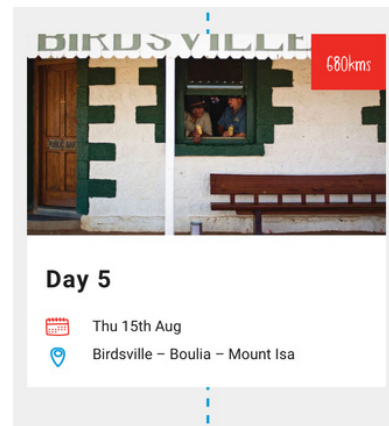
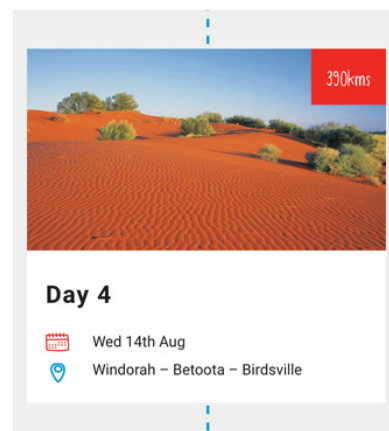
There will be around 80 themed cars and 20 officials/support vehicles travelling through the Diamantina from 14 - 15 August, with a stopover in Birdsville on Wednesday night.

The Bash is an opportunity for participants to explore remote and regional areas while raising funds for kids in need and making a genuine difference in the lives of Australian families.

In this momentous 40th year the rally will begin at Bash's Billabong in the heart of Dubbo's Taronga Western Plains Zoo. Then stepping into the original 1985 Basher's tracks, they will follow along their route from Bourke to Burketown, stopping at beautiful towns along the way.

From Bourke to Charleville, Windorah to Birdsville, Mount Isa to Burketown, no stones will go unturned in recreating the original journey.

[Find out more here](#)



## Bedourie Campdraft Rodeo & Gymkhana

27 - 29 September 2024

Nestled on a sand dune and encircled by Eyre Creek, Bedourie offers a prime vantage point to witness the country's finest horse and bull riders in exhilarating displays of precision, agility, and teamwork. Join the hundreds of spectators who gather to appreciate the locals' incredible talents as they showcase their skills for your enjoyment! [More info](#)



## 2024 Simpson Desert Racing Carnival 31 August - 14 September 2024

<b>BETOOTA RACES</b>	<b>31 AUG</b>
<b>BIRDSVILLE RACES</b>	<b>6-7 SEPT</b>
<b>BEDOURIE RACES</b>	<b>14 SEPT</b>

Experience the ultimate outback racing adventure with the Simpson Desert Racing Carnival over three consecutive weekends! Enjoy the thrill of the races with live entertainment, race fashion, licensed bars and great country hospitality in Betoota, Birdsville and Bedourie.



### Betoota Races

THE LAST WEEKEND IN AUGUST

Test your luck at backing a winner in one of the six thrilling races, enter the Fashions on the Field and explore the stalls - you might even win a lucky gate prize!



## Birdsville Races

The First Weekend in September

Two days of top-quality outback racing - a 13-race program, plus Fashions on the Field, Fred Brophy's Boxing Troupe, live performances at the Birdsville Hotel, a Fun Run, the RFDS Gala Party (5 Sept), numerous food vendors, a giant auction, and much more.

You can see the full Race Program [here](#), or check out Fashions on the Field [here](#).

The 2024 Entertainment Program is coming soon!



[View Birdsville Races Gallery here](#)

## Bedourie Races

THE SECOND WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER

Dazzle in pink in support of Breast Cancer care! Kick on after the races with live music and a fun-flowing bar.







We were treated to 'The Twits' performance by Brisbane-based company, 'Shake and Stir'.

Many thanks to Diamantina Shire Council for bringing them to Bedourie for Bedourie State School and Birdsville State School students to enjoy. Thank you to Bedourie SS P&C for providing a scrumptious lunch for all to enjoy.

**Bedourie State School**  
on Facebook

A HUGE shout out to the Push to the Bush Veterans for their generous donation to Birdsville State School while they were in town for ANZAC day.

We used this donation to kick start our 'School Shoe' program. Each morning when students arrive to school they change into their 'school shoes' and before they leave each day take them off to go home in their 'home shoes'. We loved picking up the post to find they had arrived so quickly!

**Birdsville State School**  
on Facebook



# Seed Bombs

## Plant wildflowers with seed bombs!

Seed bombs are great fun for children and adults! Start by getting outside and collecting some wildflower seeds from areas that are not protected. Dry the seeds for a day or two.



**Make mud pies that provide a growing (germinating) place for seeds.**

## Seed Bomb Recipe

### You will need:

- 4 parts clay
- 1 part fine compost
- seeds
- water to moisten

Mix the clay, fine compost and seeds together with enough water for the mixture to stick together, but not so wet it becomes a gummy mess - and you also don't want the seeds to germinate straight away. You want that to happen later. Get it to a play doh-like consistency.

Shape the mixture into balls the size of golf balls, being quite gentle when forming them - not compressing them too hard and that's important so when they do remoisten, they'll break apart and the seeds can germinate.

Once formed, pop them on a tray to dry in a cool, airy space. Dried seed bombs can be stored in a paper bag until the next big rain when they can be scattered.

Get creative about flinging or slinging (disseminating) those seeds out into the environment. **Sling-making instructions are available on [kids.NationalGeographic.com](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com)**

**Click here to watch Josh Byrne from Gardening Australia make seed bombs.**

## Do you know a budding young artist?

#WildAtArt is Australia's biggest wildlife art competition, kicking off on 17 June!

Sign up to give your young nature lover the chance to flex their skills while making a difference for nature with Wild At Art!

<https://acf.to/3yr9AWs>



Artwork: Claire, 10, 2023 Wild At Art competition

## Do you have a question about your child's emotions, behaviours and wellbeing?

The Raising Healthy Minds app is a FREE, personalised pocket resource to help you raise confident, resilient children. Co-designed with parents and experts and funded by the Australian Government, the app offers a mix of quick-read articles, videos and animations designed to support your child's social and emotional well-being from birth to age 12.

**Download the app** from Google Play or the App Store.

## Athletics Carnival Cross Country Family fun day



Individual and Team Events for  
All Ages

Canteen available

Ribbons 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Team Events from 1:30 pm

SDE and past students welcome

Program and entry form  
available on school facebook  
page

Friday, June 21, 2024  
from 8.30 to 3.00pm

At Bedourie  
State school



Download the app for tips to raise confident, resilient children



Download the app



# Police Update



Bedourie State School students were inducted as our local Junior Police Officers with Snr Con Phill and side kick Lisy



Our Junior Police officer's have commenced their duties and Jnr Con Drew is following up on an enquiry regarding an incident involving Freddy Brown



Story and Photos: Lisy Plant & Bedouris State School



**Check our road report for updates about flooding and road closures in the Diamantina Shire at [www.diamantina.qld.gov.au](http://www.diamantina.qld.gov.au)**

To report road damage or flooding within the Shire call Diamantina Shire Council on (07) 4746 1600 during office hours.

# Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre

## Our Info Centre had a MAKEOVER!

The Bedourie Visitor Centre, a cornerstone of our community and a hub for visitors seeking to explore the charm of our region, has recently undergone a significant makeover. This renovation is more than just a facelift; it's a comprehensive upgrade designed to enhance the visitor experience, with a special focus on our customer service counter and an overall homestead feel.



Wooden finishes, earthy tones, and locally inspired decor contribute to a sense of authenticity and nostalgia, evoking the spirit of traditional homesteads. Comfortable seating areas encourage visitors to linger, browse through informative displays, and leisurely plan their adventures. This homestead style enhances the visual appeal of the centre and fosters a deeper connection between visitors and the unique history of Bedourie.

This makeover results from extensive community feedback and a commitment to continuous improvement. We have listened to the suggestions of both locals and tourists, and their insights have been invaluable in shaping the new look and functionality of the visitor centre.

Our goal is to ensure that every visitor, whether first-time travellers or returning friends, enjoys an exceptional experience that encourages them to discover the outback charm and adventure that Bedourie has to offer.

*Contribution by Lisy Plant from Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre.*

[Click here to read more news from Bedourie Visitor Centre](#)

*Bedourie Outback Visitor  
Information Centre  
Weekdays 8.30am - 4.30pm  
Weekends 9.30am - 3.30pm  
1300 794 257*



Help us keep the

# 'BIRD IN BIRDSVILLE'

ASSIST US IN SAFEGUARDING OUR TREES.

Let's work together to protect the wildlife and preserve the natural environment in and around Birdsville.



## PROTECTING OUR DIVERSE BIRD SPECIES

Join us and make a positive impact on the ecosystems in the region. Please help us protect our wildlife by not cutting trees along the river. Maintaining the tree canopy not only supports the diverse bird species that call Birdsville home but also promotes biodiversity, enhances the beauty of the landscape, and contributes to the overall well-being of the environment.

## BURN FIREWOOD RESPONSIBLY

To protect our precious trees and the diverse wildlife that depend on them, it is crucial to burn firewood responsibly. By choosing to purchase firewood from local sources, you are actively contributing to the conservation of our natural environment and ecosystem.



*By buying your firewood from local businesses, you are protecting the trees and the animals.*



**Let's work together to ensure the sustainability of our river system and the well-being of our local wildlife.**

For more information contact [karrawa.wirinya.coffee@outlook.com](mailto:karrawa.wirinya.coffee@outlook.com)



Sedge



Rush



Grass

## Sedges have edges!

**'Sedges have edges, rushes are round and grasses have knees that bend all the way to the ground'.**

Sedges, rushes and grasses are among the most diverse plant groups in the Great Artesian Basin springs and can be difficult to tell apart. Sedges usually have triangular stems (edges) with leaves arranged in groups of three. Rushes usually have cylindrical, hollow stems, and grasses generally have leaves growing from the base and/or nodes. In the right combination they do wonders for the environment.

Here's how:

Wildlife habitat - provides a home for various creatures

Natural buffer - prevent soil erosion and help filter excess nutrients

Stabilise soil - the root systems enhance permeability and soil structure, reducing the risk of collapse. This helps maintain the integrity of the aquifer recharge area by preventing sedimentation. The recharge is like a 'fresh drink' for our underground water reserves.

Illustrations above show sedges, rushes and grasses by **Desert Channels Group on Facebook.**

Got thoughts on how water is being managed in your area? Share them at a public information session near you.

The Queensland Government is reviewing and replacing the Georgina and Diamantina water plan. With your feedback, we can make sure the new water plan best meets the needs of all water users in the area, while maintaining water flows needed to support cultural values and the natural environment.



## Have your say on water planning

Public information sessions:

- › Boulia, 24 June
- › Birdsville, 26 June
- › Bedourie, 25 June
- › Windorah, 27 June



Department of Regional Development,  
Manufacturing and Water

Can't make a session? You can still share your feedback. Head to the website to choose an option that suits you. <https://bit.ly/3woVKTW>

# Have your say about water management in the **Georgina and Diamantina**

We're reviewing and replacing the Georgina and Diamantina water plan and you're invited to have your say during our first round of public consultation.

With your help, we can make sure the new water plan balances the needs of all water users in the area, while maintaining water flows needed to support cultural values and the natural environment.

Want to hear more and share your thoughts on water allocation and management? Come along to one of our information sessions.

## Contact us



1800 822 100



northwps@rdmw.qld.gov.au



Scan the QR code  
to find out more

## Have your say

Attend one of our public information sessions:

### **Boulia Shire Hall**

Monday 24 June, 5–7pm

### **Bedourie Community Centre**

Tuesday 25 June, 5–7pm

### **Birdsville Town Hall**

Wednesday 26 June, 5–7pm

### **Windorah Community Centre**

Thursday 27 June, 5–7pm



## Introducing our new Tourism Development Manager, Chris Guthrie



Chris brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role as Tourism Development Manager at Diamantina Shire Council.

Originally from Victoria, Chris has worked in local government for around 19 years. His most recent roles were in Liverpool Council in Sydney where the government is building the new international Nancy Bird Walton International Airport at Badgerys Creek and at Carpentaria Shire Council up on the Gulf.

Chris has worked in tourism roles at both these organisations which has provided him with a broad experience in growing and supporting the tourist sector and all the challenges that come with such a position.

He has 3 adult children (whom he is encouraging to come up for a visit!) and is looking forward to meeting everyone in both Birdsville and Bedourie, as well as all over the rest of Diamantina, during the next few weeks and months.

Welcome Chris.



**We seek passionate individuals to join the Diamantina Shire Council team in Bedourie and Birdsville.**

If you have a sense of adventure, a love for the Outback, and a desire to contribute to our communities, we want to hear from you!

## Job Vacancies

- Finance & Administration Manager (Bedourie)
- Workshop Coordinator (Bedourie)
- Plant Operator - Multi-Combination Truck (Bedourie)
- Plant Operator/Labourer Multi-skilled (Bedourie)
- Diesel Mechanic (Bedourie)
- Fleet Administration Officer (Bedourie)
- Plumber (Bedourie)

For position descriptions and applications **visit our website**



Our awesome visitor experience team, Lisy (left) and Paula (right) at the Bedourie Outback Visitor Centre are excited to welcome our new team member. Welcome Shae (centre).

Follow Diamantina Shire Council on LinkedIn



# Health and wellness

Our nurse-led clinics in Birdsville and Bedourie manage chronic conditions and emergency care for the local community and surrounding areas.

**In an EMERGENCY dial 000**

## BIRDSVILLE CLINIC

**Call 07 4564 2400**

Monday to Friday  
9am to 12pm, 2pm to 4pm

## BEDOURIE CLINIC

**Call 07 4746 1500**

Monday to Friday  
9am to 12pm, 2pm to 5pm

CLOSED on Weekends and  
Public Holidays

# June 2024

## VISITING SERVICES

A current referral is required, please speak to your GP.  
Please confirm your appointment as per the instructions on your appointment letter.

### Flying Surgeon

- 4 June - Longreach
- 11 June - Longreach
- 25 June - Longreach

### Paediatrician

- 10 May - Blackall
- 11 May - Barcaldine
- 11-13 May - Longreach

### Flying Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

- 4 June - Barcaldine
- 11 June - Longreach
- 25 June - Longreach

### Gastroenterologist

*Dr Mark Norrie*  
*Private fees apply*

- 6-7 June - Longreach

### Cardiologist

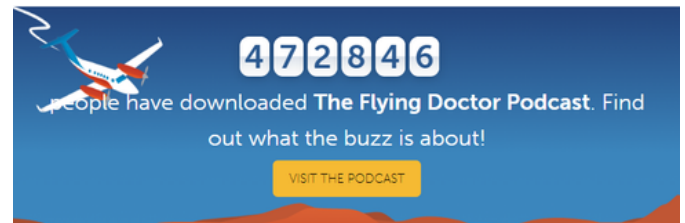
*Dr Scott McKenzie*  
*Dr Karthikeyan Gopal*

- Telehealth every Tuesday and Friday
- 26-27 June - Face-to-face

### Respiratory Physician

*Dr Alistair Cook*

- 6 June- Telehealth



**472846**  
People have downloaded **The Flying Doctor Podcast**. Find out what the buzz is about!

[VISIT THE PODCAST](#)

## Don't miss the mobile van.

**Located: Boulia (Primary Health Care Centre)**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

Book a free breast screen today.



## June 2024 Community Meetings: National Heritage List Assessment of Mithaka Cultural Landscape



The Australian Government is currently assessing the Mithaka Cultural Landscape for inclusion in the National Heritage List.

On behalf of the Australian Government and Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation, we invite you to attend one of three consultation meetings about the National Heritage assessment, scheduled to be held in Windorah, Birdsville, and Bedourie.

The National Heritage List recognises places that are of outstanding heritage value to the nation and provides protection for those values under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) (the EPBC Act).

An important part of the assessment process for Mithaka is consultation with the broader community. These meetings are an opportunity for you to:

- Hear from representatives from the Australian Government and Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation about why Mithaka Cultural Landscape is being considered for the National Heritage List
- Ask questions about the process and what it means for the community

Meetings will be hosted in the townships of Windorah, Birdsville and Bedourie with morning/afternoon tea provided.

**Tuesday, 11 June 2024**  
**10:00AM**  
Windorah Community Centre  
Edward Street  
Windorah QLD 4481

**Thursday, 13 June 2024**  
**10:00AM**  
Wirrarri Visitor Information Centre  
29 Burt Street  
Birdsville QLD 4482

**Friday, 14 June 2024**  
**1:00PM**  
Bedourie Community Centre  
18 Herbet Street  
Bedourie QLD 4829

Further information on the National Heritage List is available at Australia's National Heritage List - DCCEEW. Alternatively, you can contact Clare Fealy, Senior Heritage and Policy Officer, by email at [heritage@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:heritage@dcceew.gov.au)

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



## SOUND BATH

SOUND HEALING  
Friday 07.06.24

START: 6pm (duration 1,5h)

Where: Bedourie Community Centre

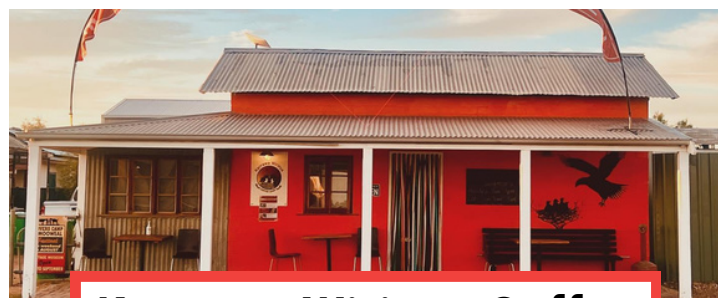
My name is Monika and I am certified sound healer. Whilst I play each instrument, you will lie down or sit if your prefer and allow the relaxing and soothing sounds take you on a journey deep within.

### Benefits of the sound healing:

- Reduces stress and promotes relaxation
- Improves sleep quality
- Provides pain relief
- Balances emotions and releases trauma
- Enhances focus and mental clarity
- Stimulates creativity
- Balances chakras and energy flow
- Boosts immune function
- Deepens meditation practices

PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS: 0460872828

Please bring yoga mat, blanket and a cushion if possible.  
DONATION BASED



## Karrawa Wirinya Coffee FIREFWOOD

(IRONBARK)

## FOR

# Sale



\$30/bag

2 bags \$50

(Head toward the water tower and look for the orange building)

Contact Khalli  
on 0499 853 464



## Add your Diamantina business listing to the Desert Yarns Business Directory.

- Design your quarter page advert
- Dimensions 9.5cm wide x 11.7cm high
- Save as a JPEG
- Or send logo, photo and information
- To:  
marketing@diamantina.qld.gov.au

Please note: One quarter page advert per business. Business must be based in the Diamantina Shire Council area. Advert inclusion subject to editor approval.

## Bedourie Community You're Invited!



Join me at

the racetrack/rodeo grounds  
And help paint the mural on the fence.

When:

Wed 5th, Thurs 6th, & Fri 7th  
June from 4pm

Sat 8th June from 9am

Sun 9th June from 9am

Wear old clothes, a hat and bring your own food and drinks.

## Council Contacts

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm  
(excluding Public Holidays)

17 Herbert Street

BEDOURIE QLD 4829

P: 07 4746 1600

E: [admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Scott Mason

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

P: 0428 461 202

E: [Scott.Mason@Diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:Scott.Mason@Diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Matt Allard

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

P: 0457 486 231

E: [Matt.Allard@Diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Allard@Diamantina.qld.gov.au)

## Elected Representatives

Cr Francis Murray, Mayor

P: 0438 999 267

E: [Francis.Murray@Diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:Francis.Murray@Diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Cr Damien Watson, Deputy Mayor

P: 0429 627 215

E: [Damien.Watson@Diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:Damien.Watson@Diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Cr Damian Clarke

P: 0472 866 267

E: [Damian.Clarke@Diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:Damian.Clarke@Diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Cr Robbie Dare

P: 0427 467 291

E: [Rob.Dare@Diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:Rob.Dare@Diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Cr Kerry Morton

P: 0488 544 506

E: [Kerry.Morton@Diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:Kerry.Morton@Diamantina.qld.gov.au)



*The Dreamtime Serpent, Betoota*

We welcome your  
feedback and contributions  
for Desert Yarns.  
Please email  
[marketing@diamantina.qld.gov.au](mailto:marketing@diamantina.qld.gov.au)

Connect with us on socials

Tag your photos **#spiritofdiamantina**



Follow @diamantinaqld  
on **Instagram**

Like Diamantina Shire  
Council on **Facebook**